

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lyons youth receives Governor's Points of Light award for volunteer service with Dresses for Haiti program

Lincoln, Neb. – Heidi Miller, a senior at Lyons-Decatur High School was honored Wednesday, November 13, 2013 by Governor Heineman and First Lady Sally Ganem with the Governor's Points of Light youth award in the Warner Chamber at the State Capitol in Lincoln. Heidi started working with the Dresses for Haiti program three years ago as a small, individual service to assist children ravaged by the devastation in Haiti living in substandard conditions.

"Heidi didn't just work on it herself; she made it a community project for the entire county and Northeastern Nebraska. She requested fabric and sewing notions from fabric stores, and from the entire community. People have happily cleaned out their fabric stashes to donate fabric to such a good cause through this activity," said Mary Loftis, UNL Extension Assistant in Burt County.

To date, Heidi's efforts have yielded over 200 dresses for Haiti with almost \$1,000 additionally given to the efforts. She also has expanded, working with food distributions and the Orphan Grain train, beginning to organize local groups around this effort as well. Heidi has devoted over 600 hours to these efforts, even traveling to Haiti to personally distribute dresses and participate in food distributions.

She has made an impact on multiple generations, moving them to a service larger than self. The small town of Lyons has been mobilized through the sewing days, donations, support and more. The 5 to 16 year olds involved will never forget, and will continue down a wider road of service due to Heidi's impact on the community as a whole.

Her impact has stretched beyond the community, county, region and internationally. Heidi is also an active volunteer and student in 4-H, girls' softball, church and an entrepreneurial lawn mowing business. Through all these activities she provides much needed community service and is a strong role model to others while still maintaining a high grade point average and rank at the top of her class.

The Governor's Points of Light awards are sponsored by ServeNebraska and presented quarterly in recognition of volunteers who give their time, talent and energy to help Nebraskans build stronger communities. To nominate a youth, adult or group who have made a difference through volunteerism and community service, visit the ServeNebraska website at www.serve.nebraska.gov. The next nomination deadline is December 15, 2013.

ServeNebraska pursues its mission of mobilizing Nebraskans to strengthen their communities through volunteering, collaboration and national service programs.

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